उनको एक्सेस चार्ज मिलेगा और यह ट्राइपार्टाइट एग्रीमेंट होगा। एक वह जो बी.ओ.टी. आफर करेगा, नम्बर दो जो इसके पीछे फाइनेंसर है वह, और नम्बर तीन रेलवे। इन तीनों के बीच ट्राइपार्टाइट एग्रीमेंट होगा और उसके आधार पर उसमें काफी टर्म्स एंड कंडीशंस हैं। सब को सिक्युरिटी मिली हुई है उसके आधार पर उसमें आ गये। बी.ओ.एल.टी. में कोई नहीं आया और आया तो टेक आफ नहीं कर पाया। इसलिए उस अनुभव के आधार पर नई स्कीम शुरु की जा रही है। रेलवे को आपरेट करना पड़ेगा उस हिसाब से इसमें व्यवस्था है। जहां तक और डेफिशियेंसीज की बात उन्होंने कही है उसके बारे में अगर अलग से कोई सुझाव देंगे तो हम उनको जरुर ओब्जेक्टिवली देखेंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is Over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Population of Vultures

*261. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD :

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian vulture population is dwindling;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken to save the vultures;

(d) whether Britain propose to give aid to India to save the vultures; if so, the estimated amount thereof; and

(e) the project drawn upto utilise the money to preserve the vultures?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) Though there has been a decline in the population of vultures, of late there is some increase in sighting of vultures in certain parts of the country;

(b) No definite cause for decline has yet been arrived at. However, some of the probable causes for the decline include :—

1. Adverse impact of pesticides and insecticides in the food chain of vultures.

2. Out-break of some contagious disease, particularly of viral origin,

3. Decreased availability of food,

4. Reduction in availability of nesting and perching sites.

(c) Steps have been initiated to deal with the problem and details are as under :—

(i). A study has commenced on the status and distribution of vultures in India by Bombay Natural History Society at a cost of Rs. 2.20 lakhs. It would *inter alia* identify possible causes of decline in population including availability of food.

(ii) An International workshop was organised in New Delhi during September, 2000 to work out a strategy for conservation of vultures. The important recommendations of the workshop include detailed survey about the current status of the species throughout the country, sample collection of sick and healthy vultures to ascertain cause of disease, detailed studies on ecological and environmental factors in important habitats of vultures and captive breeding of the species.

(iii) All Chief Wildlife Wardens have been requested to obtain information about the status of vultures in their state and to take appropriate steps to prevent the poisoning of carcasses of livestock killed by carnivores in and around protected areas.

(d) and (e) Darwin Initiative Trust, U.K. is funding a 3 year project with effect from 1-4-2001 titled "Conservation of critically endangered Gyps spp. Vultures in India" through Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai. The estimated cost of the project is about one lakh sterling pounds. The project aims to produce a recovery plan for the vultures in India and capacity development to implement the same.

Marketing Structure of Agricultural Sector

*265. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN :

SHRI RAM MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning major reforms in marketing structure in agricultural sector, envisaging a role for private sector and a scheme to construct 20 lakh godowns at an estimated cost of Rs. 125 crore has been prepared, as reported in 'The Hindu' dated the 2nd October, 2001;